Handa-kun

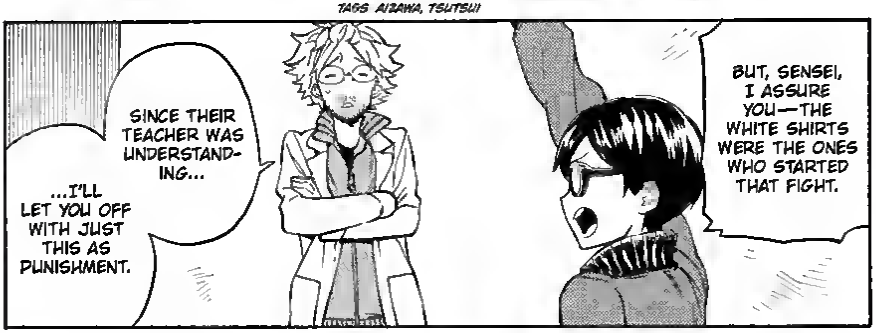
CHAPTER

24

SATSUKI YOSHINO

SURE, WHILE FEUDING WITH STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS IS LIKE AN OLD TRADITION FOR CLASS TRIPS...
筒井
...THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD DO IT.

TAGS AIZAWA, TSUTSUI


BUT, SENSEI, I ASSURE YOU—THE WHITE SHIRTS WERE THE ONES WHO STARTED THAT FIGHT.
SINCE THEIR TEACHER WAS UNDERSTANDING...
...I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH JUST THIS AS PUNISHMENT.

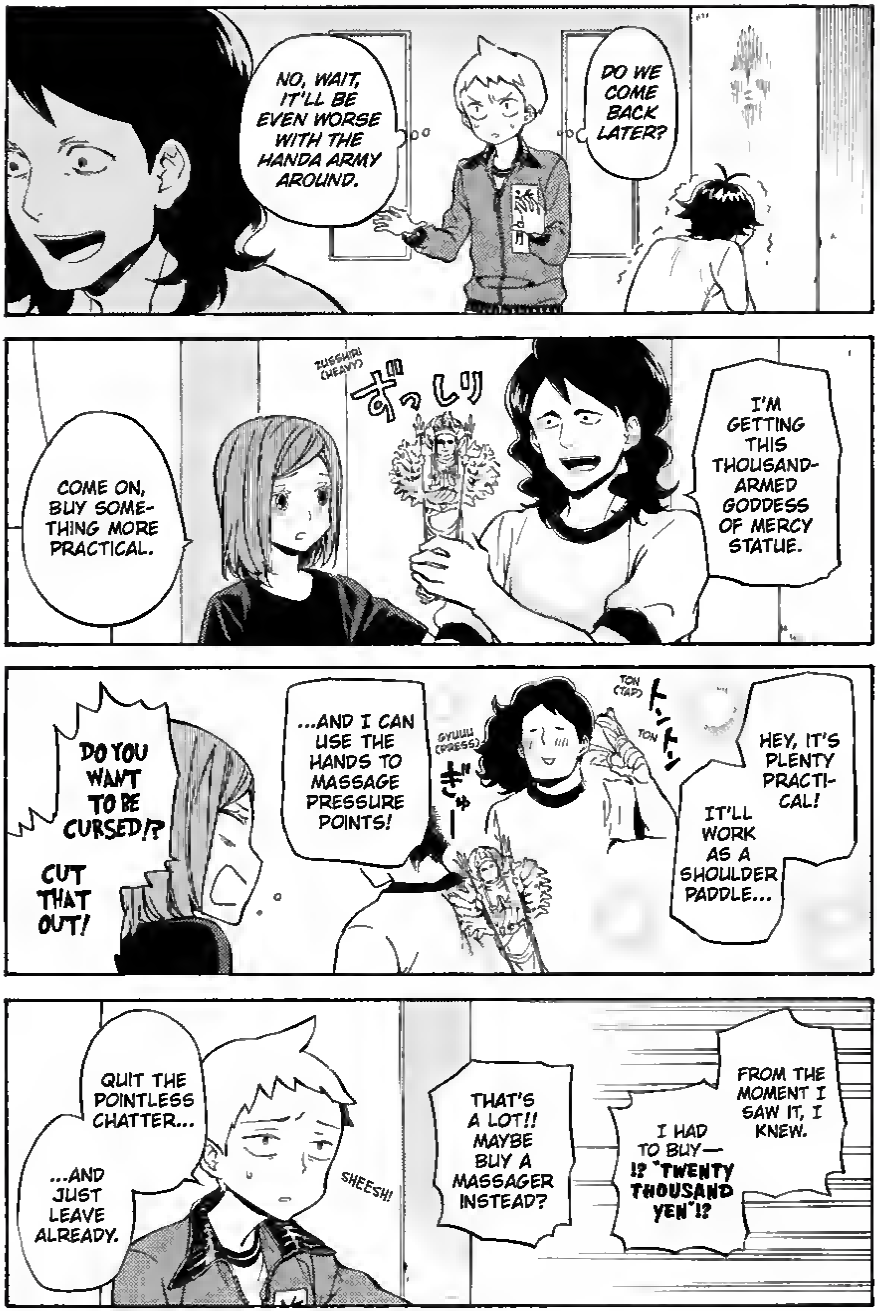
WE'VE BOTH GOT IT TOUGH.
ANYTHING INVOLVING ICHIMIYA... IS ALWAYS, ALWAYS TOUGH...
I FELT SUCH A SURGE OF AFFINITY THAT I PROMISED TO GO DRINKING WITH HIM SOMETIME.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
WHY ARE YOU GETTING FRIENDLY WITH A TEACHER FROM THE ENEMY SCHOOL?
WHITE SHIRTS' TEACHER

ANYWAY...
...YOU'LL STAY LIKE THAT AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE UNTIL LIGHTS OUT.
WHAA—!?
OUR SCHOOL'S FULL OF DELIN-QUENTS.
GLAD I WASN'T INVOLVED...

ISN'T THIS CORPORAL PUNISH-MENT?
MODELS ARE FORBIDDEN FROM KNEELING LIKE THIS!
WELL, AT LEAST HANDA-SAN DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT, SO LET'S CALL IT GOOD.
WELL, SHOOT.
THIS IS NO TIME FOR ME TO BE STUCK HERE...
YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?
OH, YUKI-CCHI!
NO FAIR THAT YOU GOT EXEMPTED.
TAG: KONDOU
YOU CAME AT A GOOD TIME, YUKI-KUN.
CAN I ASK YOU TO RUN AN ERRAND FOR ME?
WHAT KIND OF ERRAND?
I WANT YOU TO GO TO THE GIFT SHOP WITH HANDA-KUN.
ER...I'D RATHER NOT.

...SO, THAT'S THE DEAL.
PRESIDENT
AS STUDENT COUNCIL CUSTOM, EACH SECOND-YEAR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE HAS TO BUY A SOUVENIR FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
I CAN SEE RELUCTANCE WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
WELL...
...IF THAT'S THE CUSTOM...
WHY ME?
NO WAY!
A SOUVE-NIR... FOR THE PRESI-DENT.
ALONE WITH THIS GUY?
SURE.
...LET'S JUST BUY SOMETHING RANDOM.
SINCE IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ANYTHING THAT EXPENSIVE...
GIFT SHOP
SURE.
...IT'D BE GOOD TO GET SOMETHING A GIRL WOULD LIKE.
SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S A GIRL...

!?
HIDE!
DON (SLAM)
OH NO!
URG!
ABRUPT VIOLENCE...
I DON'T LIKE THIS. THINGS COULD GET COMPLICATED HERE.
IT'S THE WHITE SHIRTS AGAIN.


DO WE COME BACK LATER?
NO, WAIT, IT'LL BE EVEN WORSE WITH THE HANDA ARMY AROUND.
ZUSSHRI (HEAVY)
ずっしり
I'M GETTING THIS THOUSAND-ARMED GODDESS OF MERCY STATUE.
COME ON, BUY SOMETHING MORE PRACTICAL.
HEY, IT'S PLENTY PRACTICAL!
TON (TAP)
トントン
TON
IT'LL WORK AS A SHOULDER PADDLE...
GYUUU (PRESS)
ぎゅー
...AND I CAN USE THE HANDS TO MASSAGE PRESSURE POINTS!
DO YOU WANT TO BE CURSED!?
CUT THAT OUT!
FROM THE MOMENT I SAW IT, I KNEW.
I HAD TO BUY—
!? "TWENTY THOUSAND YEN"!?
THAT'S A LOT!! MAYBE BUY A MASSAGER INSTEAD?
SHEESH!
QUIT THE POINTLESS CHATTER...
...AND JUST LEAVE ALREADY.

WELL, ANYWAY, DID YOU HEAR THAT ICHIMIYA-KUN TOOK A PHOTO WITH HANDA AT CINEMA VILLAGE?
YEAH.
HERE WE'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TO ISOLATE HANDA...
...SO WHY A FRIENDLY PHOTO?
YOU GOT A COMPLAINT?
I'M SURE ICHIMIYA-KUN'S GOT SOME PLAN IN MIND.
THE WAY I SEE IT...
...ICHIMIYA-KUN IS TAKING A STEP TO LEAD THE DANCE.
WE DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING.
ICHIMIYA-KUN CAN TAKE OVER GRAY-SCHOOL ALL BY HIMSELF.
HEH HEH HEH.
IT SEEMS THAT WHILE WE WERE WORKING HARD, ICHIMIYA-KUN TOOK A STEP TO LEAD THE DANCE, WITH SOME PLAN IN MIND.
HEY, DON'T ACT SMART AND SAY THAT LIKE YOU THOUGHT OF IT!
HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D PROUDLY SPOUT BOGUS "FACTS" HE FOUND ONLINE.

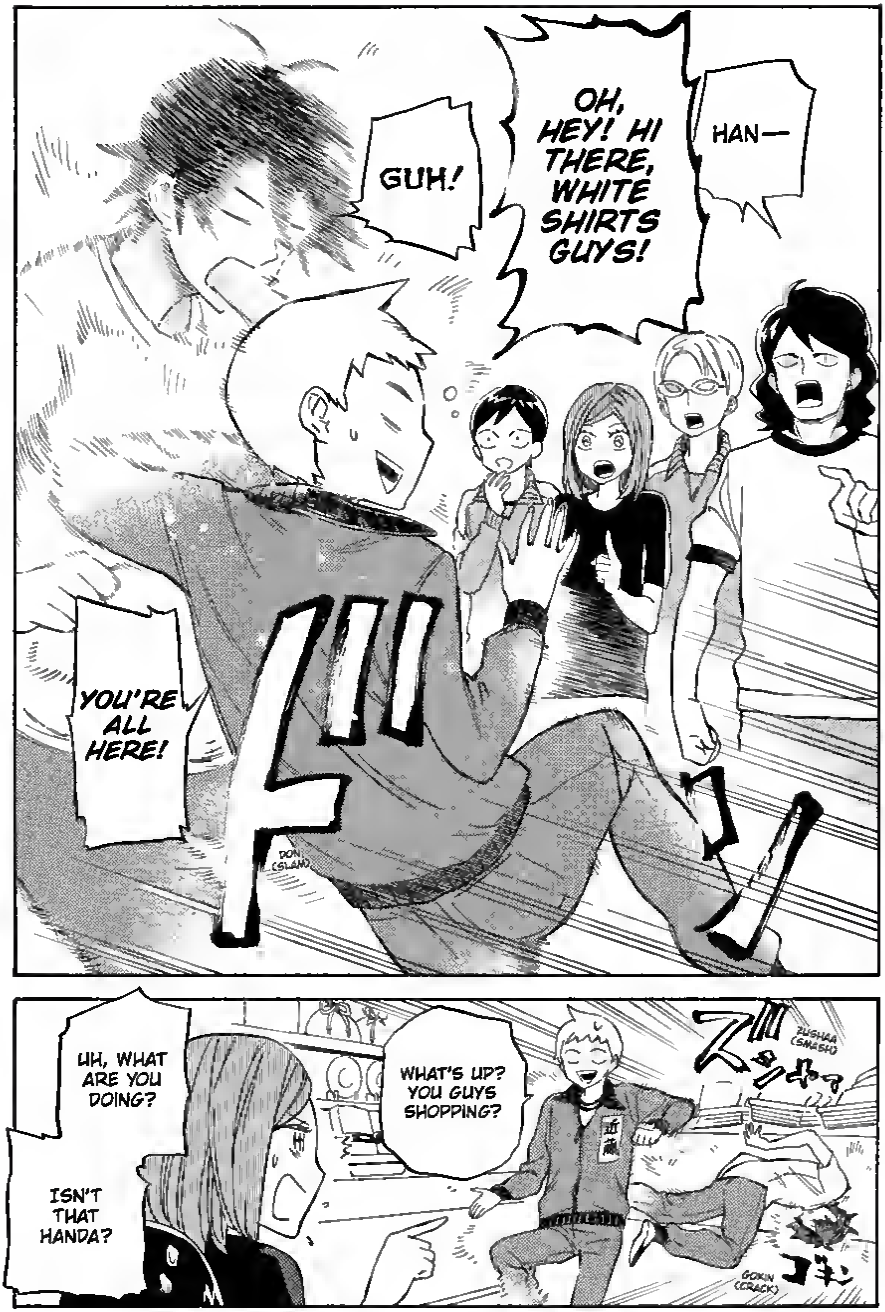
.....
YEAH, IF A PROBLEM CROPS UP, ICHIMIYA-KUN WILL HANDLE IT.
W-WELL, WHAT I MEANT IS THAT WE CAN LEAVE IT ALL TO ICHIMIYA-KUN.
IS HE SOMEBODY WITH TREMENDOUS SOCIETAL INFLUENCE?
THEY HAVE TONS OF FAITH IN ICHIMIYA-KUN.
UWAH! IT'S ERASER!
A RETURNEE WHO LIVED ABROAD UNTIL MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SHE CHISP!
ERASER
ASAHI ICHIMIYA.
HEIR TO THE ICHIMIYA GROUP, WHICH OPERATES PREMIER HOTELS AMONG OTHER VENTURES.
THAT'S A PRETTY TIGHT HOLD ON SCHOOL AUTHORITY...
GOOD RESEARCH THERE.
HIS UNCLE IS HEAD OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.
HIS MOTHER IS A "MONSTER PARENT."
HIS GRANDFATHER IS THE SCHOOL CHAIRMAN.
HIS AUNT IS HEAD OF THE PTA.

S-SURE...
TAKE CARE WHEN FACED WITH HIM.
HE IS ONE FALSELY SIMILAR TO HANDA-KUN.
ERASER
Juice
WHERE DID SHE DISAPPEAR TO?
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
ERASER
Juic
HUH?
HANDA-KUN?
HANDA-KUN, THE WHITE SHIRTS ARE SCARY, SO LET'S—
HANDA-KUN!?

OUR SCHOOL REALLY IS STRANGE.
SHEESH, ABRUPTLY SHOVING MY FACE INTO THE WALL...
HANDA-KUUUN!
SOME-THING A GIRL WOULD LIKE...
LIKE WHAT?
ORNATE HAIRPINS
I'M JUST BUYING A SOUVENIR FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
NOW, WILL YOU WEAR THIS SKIRT?
SOME-THING A GIRL...
OOH!
THEY'VE GOT RYOUMA STUFF!
NO, I GET THE FEELING BOYISH WOULDN'T WORK EITHER.
OR MAYBE BOYISH?
.....
WOULD SHE LIKE SOMETHING GIRLIE?

HANDA-KUN, THE WHITE SHIRTS ARE COMING CLOSER!
YIKES!
GIRLS ARE COMPLI-CATED...
DON'T TURN AROUND. DON'T TURN AROUND.
POKO (UROP)
WHAT'LL I DO? HE'LL GET NOTICED!
OH, WHEW ...
HE'S SAFE. SAFE...
SA (SWOOP)
PA (ZIP)
AUGH!
NO, HE'S "OUT"!!
UM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GCK... MY ARM!!

I'M SORRY. I DROPPED SOME MERCHANDISE, AND...
...MY ARM GOT STUCK.
WHA—?
YOU'RE KIDDING!
BWA-HA-HA! FOR REAL? MAN, WHAT A KLUTZ!
HE'S WEARING A GRAY-SCHOOL GYM SUIT.
SURELY, YOU KNOW HOW THICK YOUR OWN ARM IS.
HERE, I'LL LIFT THE RACK FOR YOU.
BE MORE CAREFUL.
YOU COULD'VE DISLOCATED YOUR ARM.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
WHEW...
I'M SAVED...
!!


HAN—
OH, HEY! HI THERE, WHITE SHIRTS GUYS!
GUH!
YOU'RE ALL HERE!
DON (SLAM)
WHAT'S UP? YOU GUYS SHOPPING?
UH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ISN'T THAT HANDA?
ZUSHAA (SMASH)
GOKIN (CRACK)

HE'S RIGHT THERE!
WAIT, IS HE OKAY AFTER THAT TACKLE?
HUH? WHERE?
HANDA-KUN?
OH!
!?
URG!
MY NECK...
WHAT? SO THAT'S THE REAL HANDA?
THERE'S HANDA-KUN!
WHEW!
LET'S GO INVESTIGATE THE REAL ONE FOR ICHIMIYA-KUN.
I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD.
HANDA WOULD NEVER TAKE THAT SORT OF ABUSE.

KONDOU-KUN.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO—
京都 KYOTO
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHAT THE HECK WAS—
I SAW HOW YOU REMOVED THE CANDY THAT ICHIMIYA-KUN PLACED EARLIER TODAY.
WHAT !?
RASA (RUSTLE)
!?
CHANGING THE PROPS AFTER THE LEAD ACTOR LEAVES... YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW YOUR PLACE.
AT CINEMA VILLAGE.
YEAH.
UM...
COULD YOU STOP INTERFERING WITH ICHIMIYA-KUN'S PLANS?

COULD YOU GUYS STOP THIS WEIRD HARASSMENT INSTEAD?
DESPITE APPEAR-ANCES...
...HE GETS HURT PRETTY EASILY.
HE WOULDN'T DO ANY-THING TO YOU...
...SO I'D LIKE YOU TO LEAVE HIM ALONE.

JUICE
HEH-HEH!
THERE'S STILL TOMORROW.
I CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT...
...WHICH KING WILL WIN.
HANDA-KUN ISN'T EVEN STANDING IN THE ARENA...
THESE WHITE SHIRTS...WHY DO THEY INSIST ON HAVING THIS FEUD...?
WHY DOES HANDA-KUN ATTRACT THIS MUCH TROUBLE...?
AH!

SORRY, HANDA-KUN!!
I THOUGHT IT'D BE BAD IF THE WHITE SHIRTS SAW YOU.
HANDA-KUN!?
UH...
...YOUNG MAN..
GUTTA! (LIMP)
...WILL YOU BE PURCHASING ANYTHING?
AH!
W-WELL, UH...
OH!
THIS HAIRPIN, PLEASE.
GIFT SHOP
MANY THANKS.

IF THIS GOES WELL, WE'LL CAPTURE HANDA ALIVE AND PRESENT HIM TO ICHIMIYA-KUN!
DA
DA
DA (DASH)
Bwa-ha-ha-ha!
DA
GA (GRAB)
HEY, HANDA ...
... ABOUT-FACE, NOW!
HUH?
WHAT'S UP?
WHA—!?
WHO'RE YOU!?

WOW... AN ORNATE HAIRPIN, HUH?
BY THE WAY...
WOW, IT'S CUTE.
I'M SURE IT'LL LOOK GOOD WITH THE PRESIDENT'S LONG HAIR.
BRILLIANT, HANDA-KUN!
HA HA HA HA HA.
...HANDA-SAN ISN'T MOVING A MUSCLE.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
BUILDING CLASS TRIP INN
HA-HA-HA-HA! YOU SAID IT!
HA! HA! HA! WELL, I GUESS HANDA-SAN GETS LIKE THAT EVEN WHEN NOTHING HAPPENS.
HA HA HA HA HA...
HA HA HA HA HA.
NO! NOTHING AT ALL!

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF HANDA-KUN!

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys; this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity; used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sensei: A Japanese term of respect commonly used for teachers, but can also refer to doctors, writers, and artists.

PAGE 5

Oroote Hairpins: A *kanzashi* is a long, straight hairpin with a decoration on one end.

Yattsuhashi: *Yattsuhashi* is Kyoto City's specialty Japanese sweet. It is made from sweet rice dough that is either baked like a cookie or left uncooked to act as a wrapper. The traditional flavor is cinnamon and sugar, but there are many other flavor options available.

PAGE 6

Goddess of Mercy: "Kwannon," or "Kannon," is the Japanese name for the Buddhist and Hindu goddess of mercy. According to legend, the Buddha granted her a thousand arms in order to save as many souls as possible. Her statue would be on sale at a Kyoto gift shop due to the famous Kyoto Buddhist temple *Sanjuusangendou*, which contains a thousand statues of the thousand-armed Kwannon.

PAGE 8

"monster parent": An egotistical or irrationally demanding parent, not dissimilar to the recent American term "helicopter parent," it was coined by educator and former elementary school teacher Youichi Mukouyama.

PAGE 16

Terada Teradaya is the inn where (in 1866) an attempt was made on Ryouma Sakamoto's life; he was warned just beforehand by Oryou, one of the maids, whom he married soon after. Would be fitting if these items are bath towels, considering Oryou ran upstairs naked from the bath to give Ryouma the warning!

Honda-kun

Chapter 24

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblaece to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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